MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: Evaluation of U-2R Proposal

1. There is insufficient hard data available at this time to answer the question of U-2R survivability decisively. However, based on known data, it is believed that the U-2R can be made to survive with a relatively lower degree of risk as compared to the U-2C. This opinion is based on the following:

[redacted]

resulting from U-2R's increased range which allows variance in tactics.

2. Among the operational advantages of the U-2R over the U-2C are the following:

a. Increased payload capacity.

b. Interchangeable payload nose sections.

c. Range and altitude increase.

d. Greater latitude in the choice of altitude and/or payload at the expense of range.

e. Growth potential to accept higher engine power.

[redacted]

3. Increased payload capacity will permit us not only greater choice of sensor combinations and additional sensors on a given mission, but it also may reduce the cost and time factors for sensor development. More space and weight allowance could give us the next generation of sensors without costly miniaturization requirements.

4. Interchangeable nose sections will allow latitude in sensor selection, reduce the necessary inventory of sensor systems and airframes, and ease the maintenance and calibration of sensor packages. Special-purpose airframes will be virtually eliminated.

5. Range and altitude increase will put now-denied targets within practical range of existing U-2 bases. The option to trade between range, altitude and payload will enable us to penetrate target areas [redacted] 25X1

6. There is a growth potential for the airframe to accept higher engine power, perhaps with a different engine. This is a necessary element for further improvement of the U-2R.

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